PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

| Applicant's or agent's file reference 16-481 | FOR FURTHER ACTION | See item 4 below | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| International application No. PCT/JP2005/000292 | International filing date (day/month/year) 13 January 2005 (13.01.2005) | Priority date (day/month/year) 16 January 2004 (16.01.2004) | | | |
| International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237 | | | | | |
| Applicant HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. | | | | | |

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| 1. | . This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a). | | | | |
| 2. | This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet. | | | | |
| | In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead. | | | | |
| 3. | 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: | | | | |
| | Box No. I | Basis of the report | | | |
| | Box No. II | Priority | • | | |
| | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opin applicability | on with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial | | |
| | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention | | | |
| | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | | | |
| | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited | | | |
| | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application | | | |
| | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application | | | |
| 4. | not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority | | | | |
| | date (Rule 44bis .2). | | | | |
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| | | | Date of issuance of this report 22 August 2006 (22.08.2006) | | |
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Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)